Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute the following claims 10-20 therefor:

10. (new) A valve arrangement for pilot control of a first and second hydraulically actuatable directional valve (10, 11), each of which is proportionally adjustable out of a neutral position by subjecting a first control chamber (15, 16) to action of a control pressure in a first direction and by subjecting a second control chamber (17, 18) to action of a control pressure in a second direction, a proportionally adjustable pilot control pressure valve (25) with a control output (30) at which a control pressure of different values is setable, and a first switching valve arrangement (35) via which, in a first switching position, the first control chamber (15) of the first directional valve (10) is connectable to the control output (30) of the pilot control pressure valve (25) and the first control chamber (16) of the second directional valve (11) is relievable of pressure and, in a second switching position, the first control chamber (16) of the second directional valve (11) is connectable to the control output (30) of the pilot control pressure valve (25) and the first control chamber (15) of the first directional valve (10) is relievable of pressure, further comprising a second switching valve arrangement (37) via which, in a first switching position, the second control chambers (17, 18) of the first and second directional valves (10, 11) are jointly connected to the control output (30) of the pilot control pressure valve (25) and via which, in a second switching

position, the second control chambers (17, 18) of the first and second directional valves (10, 11) are jointly relieved of pressure.

11. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first switching valve arrangement (35) is formed by a first and second 3/2-way directional switching valve (40, 41) and via the first switching valve (40), the first control chamber (15) of the first directional valve (10) and, via the second switching valve (41), the first control chamber (16) of the second directional valve (11) can be connected to the control output (30) of the pilot control pressure valve (25) or to a tank (13).

12. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first switching valve arrangement (35) is formed by a single directional switching valve (45) via which, in a first switching position, the first control chamber (15) of the first directional valve (10) is connected to the control output (30) of the pilot control pressure valve (25) and the first control chamber (16) of the second directional valve (11) is connected to a tank (13) and, in a second switching position, the first control chamber (16) of the second directional valve (11) is connected to the control output (30) of the pilot control pressure valve (25) and the first control chamber (15) of the first directional valve (10) is connected to the tank (13).

13. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 12, wherein the directional switching valve (45) forming the first switching valve arrangement (35) has precisely two switching positions.

14. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the directional switching valves (40, 41, 45) adopt one switching position under action of a spring (38, 46) and are switchable to the other switching position by solenoids (42, 43, 47).

15. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 10, wherein the pilot control pressure valve (25) is proportionally adjustable by a solenoid (26).

16. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a manually actuatable pilot control device (50) which possesses a handle (49) which is pivotable to guide the directional valves (10, 11) out of a neutral position in various directions, and in the first switching valve arrangement (35) and the second switching valve arrangement (37) are non-arbitrarily switched as a function of pivot direction of the handle (49).

17. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 16, wherein electrical switches (58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63) which are selectively actuatable as a function of the pivot direction of the handle (49) are accommodated in the pilot control device (50) and the electrical setting members (39, 42, 43, 47) of the switching valve arrangements (35, 37) are switchable thereby.

18. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 10, further comprising a manually actuatable pilot control device (50), which possesses a handle (49) which, in order to generate a constantly changing control signal, is pivotable out of a neutral position in various directions, and the pilot control pressure valve (25) is proportionally adjustable electrically and in that the electrical setting member (26) of the pilot control pressure valve (25) is controlable proportionally as a function of the value of the control signal, and the electrical setting members (39, 42, 43, 47) of the switching valve arrangements (35, 37) are controlable as a function of the state of the control signal relative to a reference value assumed in a neutral position of the handle (49).

19. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 14, wherein the directional switching valve (45) forming the first switching valve arrangement (35) has precisely two switching positions.

20. (new) The valve arrangement as claimed in claim 11, wherein the directional switching valves (40, 41, 45) adopt one switching position under action of a spring (38, 46) and are switchable to the other switching position by solenoids (42, 43, 47), and respectively wherein the directional switching valve (45) forming the first switching valve arrangement (35) has precisely two switching positions.